

LITHUANIA WAS PROMISED A GREEN AGRICULTURE REFORM — but this is what we got!



PROMISE



We were promised a space for nature in Lithuanian farmland, but...



REALITY



34%

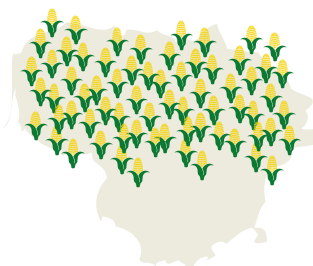
of farmland in Lithuania, and 85% of all farmers will not have to respect rules that protect biodiversity.¹

1

More than one third of farmland in Lithuania will not be required to include natural elements that protect biodiversity, such as buffer strips between fields, trees, hedges and ponds. This will make it even more difficult for animals, such as birds, insects, butterflies, bees and small mammals to survive in farmland areas. Less space for nature has further negative impacts on water and soil quality.



We were promised less monoculture farming and a more diverse and healthy landscape, but...



31%

of arable land in Lithuania, or 86% of all arable farmers are not required to carry out any meaningful crop diversification in exchange of direct payments.²

2

Almost one third of the arable land in Lithuania will not be required to do a three crop diversification. The government is thereby allowing large monocultures to perpetuate biodiversity loss, soil depletion and increased pesticide and fertilizer use. This results in irreversible and damaging consequences for the climate as well as air and water quality.



We were promised more targeted funding for environmental measures, but...



16.1% INCREASE
DIRECT INCOME

20.5% CUT
RURAL DEVELOPMENT

the greener Rural Development Pillar, where numerous public goods can be achieved received a 20.5% cut while the Direct Income Pillar was increased by 16.1%.³

3

Disproportionate cuts to the more conditional and environmentally focused Rural Development Fund means that there will most likely be less money available for green farmers who are applying better farming practices to their everyday work.

¹ Statistics from Eurostat http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/statistics_explained/index.php/Agri-environmental_indicator_-_soil_cover

² Statistics from Eurostat http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/statistics_explained/index.php/Agri-environmental_indicator_-_cropping_patterns

³ Statistics from the European Council Conclusions on the Multiannual Financial Framework 2014-202 and the CAP



The average European household contributed €277 per year to the CAP between 2007-2013.

In exchange for the billions of euros paid annually in taxes, Europeans were promised a green and more sustainable CAP reform.

But now the reform is over and greener and more sustainable farming is unlikely to take form because exemptions from green measures have become the rule rather than the exception. Even worse, in Lithuania this so called "green" reform will constitute a step backwards on

previous environmental achievements through disproportionate cuts to the much greener Rural Development fund and a decrease in environmental requirements.

But it is not over yet.

Now all efforts have to focus on getting the most out of the implementation of the reform. The Lithuanian Government has the ability to make this happen.

Decision makers are urged to take this final opportunity and:

1

Use the equivalence mechanism under the greening only as a tool to improve environmental standards.

2

Increase the Rural Development Pillar budget by using modulation.

3

Ensure that the Rural Development Programmes only contain truly sustainable measures that are going significantly beyond the greening requirements and cross compliance under Direct Income payments.

- Ensure that the 30% minimum on spending for the environment is only filled with high quality environmental measures, such as agri-environment-climate, forest-environment and Natura 2000 measures.
- Ensure that Agri Environmental Measures help maintain mosaical structure and landscape features.
- Reject all environmentally harmful measures under Rural Development.

Only if all of this is achieved can we see a Common Agriculture Policy that gives some hope on protecting nature, maximizing opportunities for Lithuanian farmers and delivering on its promise for a greener Europe.



LITHUANIAN
FUND FOR
NATURE



EUROPEAN
ENVIRONMENTAL
BUREAU

